

Avonworth School District
258 Josephs Lane
Pittsburgh, PA 15237
Avonworth Board of School Directors
Minutes – Work Session/General Purpose Meeting – November 23, 2020
Avonworth School District – LGI Room & Virtually
7:30 P.M.

Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

MEMBERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM (Roll Call Taken):

Mr. Beau Blaser, Mr. John Brandt, Ms. Vicki Carlson, Mr. Patrick Stewart

MEMBERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY (Roll Call Taken & Verified by Voices & Video):

Ms. Sandra Bolain, Ms. Yu-Ling Cheng, Ms. Kathryn Monti, Ms. Kristin Thompson, Ms. D. White

OTHERS PRESENT IN THE BOARD ROOM:

Dr. Thomas Ralston, Superintendent
Dr. Jeff Hadley, Asst. Superintendent
Ms. Cindy Donovan, Board Secretary

Mr. Brad Waters, Director, Fiscal Mgmt.
Ms. Andrea Patton, Athletic Director

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY:

Ms. Keera Dwulit, HS Principal
Mr. Jason Smith, Teacher
Ms. Sherah Rothman, Teacher
Ms. Maureen Frew, Teacher
Ms. Colleen Barcaskey, School Nurse
Ms. Julie Mannion, Parent
Ms. Tammy Scott, Parent
Ms. Stephanie Moore, Parent
Ms. Stephani Machen, Parent
Ms. Lindsey Stover, Parent
Ms. Jessica Johnston, Parent
Ms. Danielle Strobel, Parent
Mr. Ken Kalb, Parent
Ms. Alicia Mielnicki, Parent
Ms. Amber Thompson, Parent
Ms. Kimmie Johnson, Parent
Mr. Michael Hetcko, Parent
Ms. Jaclyn Keane, Teacher
Ms. Lindsay Scharding, Parent
Ms. Jackie Karwoski, Parent
Ms. Kelli Sommers, Parent
Ms. Amanda Lemon, Parent
Ms. Diann Brown, Parent
Ms. Marijane Antkiewicz, Parent
Ms. Katie Kalb, Parent
Ms. Tracy Smallwood, Parent
Ms. Emily Hensch, Parent

Ms. Alaina Schrader, Elementary Counselor
Ms. Becky Marszalek, Paraprofessional/AESPA President
Ms. Carol Loutzenhiser, Parent
Ms. Tracy Graff, Primary Center Secretary
Ms. Julie McMinn, Parent
Ms. Maria Bennis, Teacher
Ms. Hannah Valeriano, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Lindell, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Yoder, Parent
Ms. Anna Marie White, Parent
Ms. Elizabeth Dugan, Parent
Ms. Heather Sabala, Parent
Ms. Kim Gallucci, Parent
Ms. Courtney Kuzma, Parent
Ms. Hope Lucas, Parent
Ms. Beth Hendrickson, Parent
Mr. Tom Diorio, Parent
Ms. Rachael Latore, Parent
Ms. Andrea Jacobs, Parent
Ms. Briana Watts, Parent
Ms. Samantha Meese, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Handke, Parent
Ms. Jenni Galbraith, Parent
Ms. Stef Barnes, Parent
Ms. Kristen Hubbell, Parent
Ms. Anne Marie Harvey, Parent
Ms. Erin Pascuzzi, Parent

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:

Ms. Suzanne Basista, Parent	Ms. Carrie Amelio, Parent
Ms. Tatiana Glasgow, Parent	Ms. Tonia Roll, Parent
Ms. Jessica Boyd, Parent	Ms. Siobahn Gallagher, Parent
Ms. Ellen Cernich, Parent	Mr. Jared Quinn, Parent
Ms. Omolara Fatukasi, Parent	Ms. Sherry Ehrin, Parent
Ms. Pamela North, Parent	Ms. Raili Kielely, Parent
Ms. Sheila Talarico, Parent	Ms. Amanda Berneburg, Parent
Ms. Marlena Stevens, Parent	Ms. Linda Werner, Parent
Ms. Jodi Piacenti, Parent	Mr. Dean Zuppe, Teacher
Ms. Toni Reagan, Parent	Ms. Pam Rawlings, Teacher
Ms. Emily McCaul, Parent	Ms. Anne McGrath, Parent
Ms. Morgan Carpenter-Panuski, Parent	Ms. Carla Zimmerly, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Revesz, Teacher	Ms. Holly Pukylo, Parent
Mr. David Farrah, Parent	Ms. Lauren Takacs, Parent
Ms. Jenny Anderson, Parent	Ms. Erin Woods, Parent
Ms. Maritza Rivera Herleman, Parent	Ms. Carly Molchen, Parent
Ms. Gretchen Crawford, Parent	Ms. Karen Russell, Teacher
Ms. Maria Bounos, Parent	Ms. Renee Knipp, Parent
Ms. Laurie Mathie, Parent	Ms. Patricia Veleke, Parent
Ms. Jenna Paulat, Parent	Ms. Elaine Grazulis, Teacher
Ms. Erin Lodge, Parent	Ms. Leah Plaks, Parent
Ms. Melissa Ursu, Parent	Ms. Kristin Schleis, Parent
Ms. Leah Abbott, Parent	Ms. Dory Kurpe, Parent
Ms. Amanda Arensberg, Parent	Ms. Betsey Eberhardt, Parent
Mr. Komol Kowal, Parent	Ms. Emily Heller, Parent
Ms. Gail Love, Substitute School Nurse	Ms. Lisa Milsom, Parent
Mr. Len Tena, Teacher	Ms. Kristy Alberts, Parent
Ms. Yvonne Hudnall, Parent	Ms. Linda Morgan, Parent
Ms. Maureen Odell, Parent	Ms. Julia Udovich, Teacher
Ms. Lisa Simmons, Parent/Paraprofessional	Ms. Kathleen Cingle, Parent
Ms. Lisa Vermillion, Parent	Mr. Brant Colamarino, Blgs./Grounds Supvsr.
Ms. Rhodora Huffmyer, Parent	Mr. Brayden Wisniewski, Student
Ms. Jodi Buzzard, Parent	Ms. Katie Simmons, Teacher
Ms. Natasha Mitchell, Parent	Ms. Caroline Boughton, Parent
Ms. Sarah Salvatore, Teacher	Ms. Maureen Sweeney, Parent
Ms. Melissa Loch, Parent	Mr. Bill White, Teacher
Ms. Monica O’Neil, Parent	Ms. Sandee Connors-Rowe, Parent
Mr. Mike Hall, Middle School Principal	Mr. Michael Klaum, Parent
Mr. James Loutzenhiser, Parent	Dr. Bill Battistone, Elementary Principal
Mr. Ronnie Ziccardi, Teacher	Ms. Brittany Covalt, Teacher
Ms. JoAnne Bova, Teacher	Ms. Stacy Faulkner, Parent
Mr. Chad Osborn, Parent	Ms. Jen Wickert, Teacher
Ms. Cathie Sayles, Parent	Ms. Kaitlin Remensky, Asst. HS/MS Principal
Ms. Megan Pastore, Parent	Ms. Kelly Hansen, Teacher/AEA President
Mr. Ed Clark, Community Member	Ms. Carrie Velisaris, Parent
Mr. David Leibach, Teacher	Ms. Gail Lipchak, Teacher
Ms. Tanya Schmigel, Parent	Ms. Michelle George, Teacher

OTHERS PRESENT VIRTUALLY, continued:

Ms. Cheryl Noethiger, Community Member	Ms. Mara Alterio, School Nurse
Ms. Jessica Jackson, Parent	Mr. Greg Smolinski, Parent
Ms. Krystyn Birt, Parent	Ms. Lauren Zivic, Teacher
Ms. Torri Robinson, Parent	Ms. Jessica Kostewicz, Parent/Teacher
Ms. Amy Tokar, Parent	Mr. Cory Bonnet, Parent
Ms. Amy Kantenwein, Paraprofessional	Ms. Anne Blaser, Parent
Ms. Emily Cropper, Teacher	Ms. Katie Libbon, Parent/Teacher
Ms. Nicole Ehmann, Parent	Ms. Kellie Bonini, Parent
Mr. Ronald Antkiewicz, Parent	Mr. Dave Chekan, Parent
Ms. Diane Scheuring, Parent	Ms. Kristen Hollywood, Parent
Ms. Jennifer Cavanaugh, Parent	Ms. Melissa Nelson, Parent
Ms. Melinda Malsch, Parent	Mr. Michael Hebor, Parent
Ms. Ashley Randall, Teacher	Mr. Michael Glass, Parent
Mr. Todd Bellinger, Parent	Ms. Brianne McCarthy, Parent
Ms. Sara Studt, Teacher	Ms. Allison Beck, Parent
Ms. Melissa Stewart, Parent	Ms. Jocelyn Puskar, LPN
Ms. Melissa Lesko, Parent	Ms. Jeanne Kidder, Parent
Ms. Nicole Findon, Parent	Ms. Makenzie Wetzal, Parent
Ms. Nancy Whyte, <i>The Citizen</i>	

Board President, Mr. Beau Blaser, called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:37 P.M.

Dr. Ralston and Dr. Hadley gave a COVID-19 and Educational Model update and presentation. Following PDE guidelines, we will remain in remote learning until at least December 14. We will follow the metrics and provide parents with an update every Friday. When conditions allow, the goal is to bring back K-2 students for full in-person with 6 ft. distancing at the semester break, then 3-6 students for full in-person with 6 ft. distancing at the semester break or later. Grades 7-12 would be brought back into hybrid with synchronous instruction when conditions allow and transition 7-12 virtual academy students to follow the daily schedule with synchronous learning at the semester break.

Following are Q&A and Chat session questions asked during the Board meeting, some of which were answered during the meeting. Answers to the remaining questions will be provided in a separate document and posted on the school website.

From cory and jess bonnet to All panelists: (8:05 PM)

Can you please talk about how you are interpreting the conflicting information from the recent CDC from the specialized doctors from the local panel? Specifically, they both agree that schools are not vectors and the CDC claims that the schools are the safest place for kids.

Dr. Ralston: Feels schools have done an excellent job following guidelines. Problems arise when students leave the buildings. Mrs. Carlson referred to the recent press conference with Dr. Robert Redfield, Director of the CDC where he said K-12 students could come back to school if properly masked and 6 ft. distancing. We have been making data driven decisions which is shown in the presentation. Everything heard from the CDC is in our plan.

Mrs. Thompson asked if the additional teachers needed for grades K-2 and 3-6 returning would be long term substitutes. Wouldn't it be hard to find substitutes in January? Dr. Hadley said yes but teachers graduate in the winter and would be looking for jobs. Dr. Ralston confirmed they would be substitutes. Dr. Hadley clarified there is a process when hiring a teacher. The position would be posted for 14 days and interviews would be conducted.

Ms. Cheng noted the COVID Working Group had taken mental health concerns into consideration and felt this model isn't perfect but it does get kids back into school.

Mr. Brandt asked Mr. Waters about the \$1 million cost outlined in the presentation. Mr. Waters said we had a surplus in the budget last year due to savings with transportation, substitutes and going to a full virtual model. We had almost \$1 million in savings. He would have to work with PDE to reopen the Budget and have the Board formally vote to adopt a revised Budget to include the additional expenses.

From Kate to All panelists and attendees: (8:22 PM)

Cant hear Dr. Ralston

From Alaina Schrader to All panelists: (8:41 PM)

Would like to add that with the addition of longer hours + recess + lunch we will see a huge increase in behavioral issues, crisis situations, friend problems, etc. and mask wearing & distancing will become much more emotional and more challenging within school. Students & families long for normalcy and social togetherness- much of which will not be happening in return under the circumstances. Staff will end up sacrifice personal safety to mitigate student/peer safety.

From John Brandt to Alaina Schrader, All panelists: (8:44 PM)

would you like to speak ?

From Alaina Schrader to All panelists: (8:45 PM)

No thank you. I do appreciate it, though. Thank you all.

From John Brandt to Alaina Schrader, All panelists: (8:46 PM)

Thank you very much for your input and we will include that in any decision

From Kelli Sommers to All panelists: (8:49 PM)

Wouldn't the hybrid model come next after total remote and before we would move to full time?

Dr. Ralston replied we would go to hybrid and then to full time in-person.

From Kristen Hubbell to All panelists: (8:50 PM)

is there any possibility to bring just kids with IEP's in for face to face instruction? even if only for 2 hours a day?

Dr. Ralston replied that it's an IEP team decision of which parents are involved.

From Valeriano, Hannah K, 2 to All panelists: (8:50 PM)

i have a few questions:

From Michael Klaum to All panelists: (8:50 PM)

Are you saying that no school in Allegheny county can return to school unless there is 6 feet of space to distance? Or is this a choice we are making?

Dr. Ralston said most schools are doing their best to adhere to 6 ft. distancing in schools. We are looking to follow the science and metrics and we have consistency of 6 ft. and masks.

From Valeriano, Hannah K, 2 to All panelists: (8:50 PM)

1. will you take k-2 bqck hybrid prior to jan 25th?

Dr. Ralston said if the numbers support it.

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (8:50 PM)

Has the idea of keeping school as is until the end of this school year knowing the vaccine is unlikely to be available this school year rather than embracing this type of plan that is so dependent on local numbers?

From Valeriano, Hannah K, 2 to All panelists: (8:50 PM)

2. what is the plan between dec 14th and jan 25th if the numbers are favorable? 3. are teachers considered essential for the vaccine?

Dr. Ralston replied that teachers are pretty high up for those who would be vaccinated.

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (8:59 PM)

Thank you to all of you for using the data, facts, and science to make the decisions for the protection of our teachers and children!

From Monica to All panelists: (9:01 PM)

Does the district have enough contact tracing data to know if staff cases were contracted in school with distancing and masking in place?

Dr. Ralston replied we do contact tracing under the supervision of the Dept. of Health. We report all cases for anyone who is a member of our school community. This does not mean they contracted it at school. Mr. Brandt clarified when we quarantine we we know some could have it and could be asymptomatic and will not be tested.

From Yu-Ling Cheng to All panelists: (9:08 PM)

Lots of echo

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (9:09 PM)

I am struggling to understand how we can consider to allow sports to continue if masks and six feet distance are unlikely possibilities. Shouldn't the same rules apply in sports as in the classroom? We should prioritize classroom over sports for the mental health and education of our children.

Our Athletic Director is working on the plan. We are looking to resume sports on November 30 with the caveat that our coaches, students and parents follow the new and updated safety guidelines. We are in the process of updating the facilities plan.

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (9:16 PM)

I greatly appreciate all of the work and thought that has gone into this possible plan and applaud the district's desire to be safe; enforce masks and distancing. It seems the winter months seem unlikely to reduce number of cases in our area, is it worth \$1M investment for this year or should we start working on our plan for next school year with add'l teachers?

From Valeriano, Hannah K, 2 to All panelists: (9:18 PM)

thank you for considering the k-2 first! kindergarten 100% virtual is an extreme struggle to the point that it really isn't an education! not at fault of the teachers but these 5yo and 6yo shouldn't have to sit in front of the screens a day. we need to get these young kids back in some face to face model! 1. what are the numbers in moderate that you will consider bringing them back? why wouldn't you hire the additional teachers now to be prepared to whatever we are able to bring back some students? at the least k-2?

From Alaina Schrader to All panelists: (9:33 PM)

Alaina Schrader, Counselor- does the calculation for staff account for specials teachers that would be needed to accommodate that many homerooms

From Bill Battistone to All panelists: (9:34 PM)

Thank you all.

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (9:35 PM)

Thank you to all of you for using the data, facts, and science to make the decisions for the protection of our teachers and children!

From Jenni Galbraith to All panelists: (9:36 PM)

could you please clarify the date you are expecting students to return to hybrid? we had received an email stating they were to return (HS) on 11/23 and 11/24

From Tom Ralston to Jenni Galbraith, All panelists: (9:37 PM)

Currently, with the metrics of cases, the earliest we would return to hybrid would be December 14. This contingent on Allegheny County moving out of Substantial for two consecutive weeks.

From Jenni Galbraith to All panelists: (9:43 PM)

thank you!

Yvonne Hudnall 08:32 PM

Do we currently have the funds to pay for the new teachers??

herrle 08:32 PM

I can't see how it's in the student's best interest to switch teachers in the middle of the year

Komal Kotwal 08:35 PM

If the school is able to move to an in person model as suggested in today's presentation in the next semester, would considerations would be made to keep children from each classroom as a 'pod system' ; especially during lunch time / recess times etc.

Dr. Ralston replied yes, we would pod students as much as possible.

Pam North 08:37 PM

Is there any intent to allow the virtual students to have more synchronous classes to be in line with the hybrid students who have synchronous class on M/T/TH/F. The virtual students only have an hour of synchronous class per subject as is stands today.

Dr. Ralston said we are looking to increase more synchronous time for virtual students. We want to expand that as well. We are looking to continue to advance our secondary program.

Melissa Ursu 08:39 PM

Has the board discussed offering 3 options for those who aren't fully ready for full time?

Dr. Ralston said as much as we looked at the numbers game - it's like a numbers game on steroids. Dr. Hadley said one issue was full time in-person classes would not be distanced and we wouldn't need now because we are at a place to be sure we maintain 6 ft. distancing.

Anonymous Attendee 08:47 PM

Any update on MS/HS winter sports and upcoming tryouts? Are they still on as scheduled?

Mr. Stewart reminded attendees that the Sunshine Act requires attendees to state their name and asked that virtual attendees log in using their name and not sign in as anonymous.

Kristen Hubbell 08:52 PM

Is there a possibility to bring just the kids with IEP's in for instruction? Even if for a limited time each day.

Melissa Ursu 08:53 PM

Would the costs require a tax increase?

Pam 08:59 PM

More of a comment. Hybrid needs to be considered going forward for 7-12 synchronous for mental stability. Especially with only 2 cases in buildings.

Greg Smolinski 09:01 PM

If cases stay the same, could we assume that the students will be full remote from 12/14 - 12/22

Dr. Ralston said yes, we would be virtual through the end of December. We would rather move to hybrid and then to full time. We have to see where the numbers are.

Carol Loutzenhiser 09:09 PM

Has the athletic committee also discussed recommendations with the medical experts that the working group (who presented earlier tonight) worked with? If so, are the medical experts concerned with opening sports right after the Thanksgiving holiday and the inherent risk therein?

Dr. Ralston said yes, our Athletic Director will be working with coached and faculty regarding masking, etc. Allegheny Health Network will be advising us.

Yvonne Hudnall 09:12 PM

Yvonne Hudnall, Ohio Twn. Are we (the district) not requiring those in quarantine to return to school without a negative covid test?

Dr. Ralston said you must complete a 14 day quarantine. After 14 days you are okay to return.

Melissa Ursu 09:13 PM

Has the mental health of the primary students been considered with reassigning teachers? They are already dealing with a big change and I'm concerned a new teacher would have a negative effect

Dr. Ralston said if we bring students back we will stick with social distancing and have to re-roster students in this model. Discussed the timeframe to put this in place. We would need to post the substitute positions for two weeks, look at candidates, set up classrooms, and provide orientation and training. We would need at least until Jan. 25. We could use long term substitutes for hybrid instruction. Dr. Hadley noted he did not take into account the 3rd and 5th grade virtual teachers we had recently hired. That would be a reduction of \$80,000 in the presentation.

Lisa Dugan 09:21 PM

Has the indoor air quality in the classrooms been evaluated to assess air exchange (and therefore aerosol viral particle removal) efficiency? Good indoor air quality and ventilation is essential especially in these winter months when classroom windows are closed.

Mr. Waters said we follow the manufacturer’s recommendations for maximum air quality. We are waiting for our order of air filters to arrive.

My apologies as I did not identify myself, my name is Todd Bellinger. Is there an update on MS/HS winter sports? My specific question is in regards to the boys basketball tryouts scheduled for November 30th. Thank you.

Patrick Stewart 09:03 PM

No problem Todd. Thank you for clarifying.

cory and jess bonnet 09:39 PM

I am still a bit unclear on the Nov. 30 tryouts and basketball. Based on what John said, is that going to be a vote and/or discussion tonight?

Patrick Stewart 09:43 PM

Yes, voting in a few minutes

Melissa 09:28 PM

Just a note that those who have *chosen* the virtual model have not necessarily done so because we *want* virtual school. We...and our kids...want to be back in school too. If anyone’s mental health is being sacrificed here, it’s that of those families...we are going on isolation for 9 months...for many because it feels like the right thing to do for the entire community. Maybe we should be looking to do what puts EVERYONE back in school 100% at the earliest instead of what puts back some of the kids in January, but it leaves the AVA kids in the dark for the rest of the year.

Carol Loutzenhiser 09:32 PM

Thanks for the reply. When the board turns to the athletic discussion, I would appreciate if the athletic committee share the doctors that were consulted and the specific recommendations that were given and the risks to the athletes.

cory and jess bonnet 09:43 PM

Thanks!

From Valeriano, Hannah K, 2 to All panelists: (9:53 PM)

what does that do to special ed kids if you send a the teachers to work from home?

From Carrie Brady to All panelists: (9:54 PM)

What would this do to the special education population?

From Sheila Talarico to All panelists: (9:59 PM)

Our understanding of the mandatory work from home order is that it does not apply to essential services. I would argue that a school, like a nonprofit agency, is essential.

Michael Hetcko 09:57 PM

If we see any degradation in quality of education, will the work from home be reversed? I'll not give specifics, but I'm certain we don't see the same quality and availability.

Pam 10:00 PM

The mandate separates schools and specifically businesses.
Is there a timeline for this to end?

Kristen Hubbell 10:04 PM

I don't understand why there is any discussion to athletics when our students can't be in school. Can someone clarify that?? Why can kids play sports but not be in school. Does not make any sense!

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (10:00 PM)

my question in q&a was ignored

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (10:00 PM)

regarding the work from home

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (10:04 PM)

I am struggling to understand how we can consider to allow sports to continue if masks and six feet distance are unlikely possibilities. Shouldn't the same rules apply in sports as in the classroom?

We should prioritize classroom over sports for the mental health and education of our children.

From cory and jess bonnet to All panelists: (10:05 PM)

Does that mean the Avonworth kids start swimming at Northgate again?

Mr. Brandt said we would follow Northgate's guidelines. There are specific recommendations for wrestling: members would have to arrive dressed, wear masks and shower.

From Tom Ralston to Jenni Galbraith, All panelists: (10:07 PM)

Regarding the work from home questions, I will speak with the solicitor tomorrow to gain further guidance and clarification. I would expect the quality of teaching to be high.

From Tom Ralston to Michael Hetcko, All panelists: (10:07 PM)

Regarding the work from home questions, I will speak with the solicitor tomorrow to gain further guidance and clarification. I would expect the quality of teaching to be high.

From Ken Kalb to All panelists: (10:09 PM)

How can you allow any school sports when all will be <6' distance rules you are applying to the academic side of school. how can you have double standards!

I want to see the kids back 100%. I volunteer to send my kids back academically!

From Tammy Scott to All panelists: (10:10 PM)

But children will be playing sports and then coming into the classroom, putting other students and our teachers at risk.

Dr. Ralston said sports are a voluntary elective. We have to provide an education for our students. We are trying to strike a balance.

From Ken Kalb to All panelists: (10:12 PM)

Participants in sports will have much more breathing and contact than statically sitting.

From Valeriano, Hannah K, 2 to All panelists: (10:18 PM)

will that chart be shared/posted?

From Tom Ralston to Valeriano, Hannah K, 2, All panelists: (10:19 PM)

Yes, we will post the chart on our COVID website

From Mike Hebor to All panelists: (10:24 PM)

The decision should follow the district data. The County data includes many regions not indicative of our location.

Dr. Ralston said he somewhat agrees. People do not live their lives within our school district. Ms. Cheng said it's important to take into account the county data.

Amanda 01:31 AM

What about AES and APC school sports; hockey? basketball?

From Mike Hebor to All panelists: (10:26 PM)

So are we now using three counties? The region? The State? the whole country?

From Ken Kalb to All panelists: (10:27 PM)

This linking will swamp us.

From Ken Kalb to All panelists: (10:28 PM)

It's a bad idea. You said the transmissions don't really happen in the schools. so, why would you link the county activity to Avonworth?

From Mike Hebor to All panelists: (10:29 PM)

It is very dangerous to blindly take county data and make it a requirement. Our district can be a trigger. County data should only be added in under a common sense basis. NOT as a trigger.

From Ken Kalb to All panelists: (10:29 PM)

Making sure?? Avonworth is in play here.

From Ken Kalb to All panelists: (10:29 PM)

Making sure?? Avonworth is in play here. Nobody crosses the rivers in PGH

From Mike Hebor to All panelists: (10:35 PM)

I don't think we should use the county data, please don't classify me as crazy

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (10:35 PM)

you need to look at local data. how could you justify a school like pine Richland that is more closely like butler county should use Allegheny county data. if we use local community data, that represents what our families are sacrificing to get kids in school.

From Michael Hetcko to All panelists: (10:36 PM)

and 1/2 of our kids are not going to rmu frequently. maybe the question should be to the county to provide better clarifications on the data.

From Ken Kalb to All panelists: (10:38 PM)

That's a crazy back door situation that they are making you agree to follow the guidelines essentially making them a requirement.

From Mike Hebor to All panelists: (10:38 PM)

So use non-indicative data so you don't have to discuss it?

From Kristen Hubbell to All panelists: (10:43 PM)

yet you are allowing kids to play sports??? how will cases get any better if they are gather for sports!!!!

From Mike Hebor to All panelists: (10:43 PM)

Its not about today's data. It is about process. Who knows what it will be next month.

From Rodney Paulat to All panelists: (10:45 PM)

Thank you, administration and school board. Have a great Thanksgiving!

Visitors' Comments

No visitor comments

Mr. Blaser noted the Athletic Committee met this evening at 6:30 PM in the LGI Room and virtually to discuss athletic matters.

NOTE: When voicing their votes, Board members also raised their hands to signify their vote so virtual attendees could see them.

FOR VOTE THIS EVENING

FINANCE – D. White/P. Stewart, Co-Chairs

Motion: D. White; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous voice vote to approve item 1:

1. To approve the agreement with Consortium for Public Education which will be paid for with the Teacher in the Workplace grant awarded to the District in 2019-2020. *Consort. for
Public Ed.
Agreement*

The following items were discussed for placement on the agenda of the Regular Meeting to be held Monday, December 7, 2020:

Approval of the Minutes of the November 2, 2020 Work Session/General Purpose Meeting and the Minutes of the November 9, 2020 Regular Meeting. (Voice Vote)

FINANCE – D. White/P. Stewart, Co-Chairs

- 1.1 Ratify payment of General Fund bills for November, 2020, beginning with Check #49932 and ending with Check #_____ in the amount of \$_____.
- 1.2 Ratify the November, 2020 payroll in the amount of \$1,331,069.54.
- 1.3 Treasurer’s Report for October, 2020.
- 1.4 Ratify payment of Food Service Fund checks for November, 2020, beginning with Check #2771 and ending with Check #_____ in the total amount of \$_____.
- 1.5 Ratify payment of Athletic Fund checks for November, 2020, beginning with Check #9198 and ending with Check #_____ in the total amount of \$_____.
- 1.6 To approve capital project payments of \$5,603.25.

2. To approve the Department of Education’s approval of Plan Con Part K: Project Refinancing” for a portion of Series A of 2020 General Obligation Bonds assigned Lease No. 202465 be accepted and entered into the Minutes of this meeting.

3. To approve the Department of Education’s approval of Plan Con Part K: Project Refinancing” for a portion of Series B-1 of 2020 General Obligation Bonds assigned Lease No. 203634 be accepted and entered into the Minutes of this meeting.

4. To approve the Department of Education’s approval of Plan Con Part K: Project Refinancing” for a portion of Series B-2 of 2020 General Obligation Bonds assigned Lease No. 204634 be accepted and entered into the Minutes of this meeting.

PERSONNEL – K. Thompson/V. Carlson, Co-Chairs

1. To approve the request of _____, Paraprofessional, for an extension to her unpaid leave of absence through March 16, 2021.

2. To approve the request of _____, Paraprofessional, for an intermittent FMLA for up to twelve weeks beginning December 2, 2020.

Personnel, continued

3. To approve the request of _____ for an unpaid leave from January 29, 2021 through January 12, 2022.

PUBLIC RELATIONS – Y. Cheng/K. Thompson, Co-Chairs

1. To approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar as attached.

ATHLETICS & ACTIVITIES – J. Brandt/B. Blaser, Co-Chairs

1. To accept the resignation of _____, Assistant Jr. High Wrestling Coach, effective November 17, 2020.
2. The Administration recommends approval of the following spring coach for the 2020-2021 School Year. In the event that an athletic season or other activity is shortened or cancelled in its entirety, payment for the affected supplemental positions(s) shall be reduced on a pro rata basis. This appointment does not guarantee any of the persons listed below that his/her position will be needed and in place or that it will continue uninterrupted during the 2020-2021 School Year.

- A. Shared Assistant Middle School Softball Coach - _____
(To be determined by the Dec. 9 meeting)

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS – P. Stewart/S. Bolain – Co-Chairs

1. To declare a John Deere 425 tractor with a lawn cutting deck and a plow as obsolete and sell/dispose of accordingly. *(This piece of equipment is no longer operating and needs extensive repairs.)*

Old Business

No Old Business

New Business

Dr. Ralston said the PDE and Dept. of Health issued new guidelines today. School districts were asked to approve and sign and submit to PDE an Attestation Ensuring Implementation of Mitigation Efforts which ensures we are following the guidelines. This document is to be included with our Health and Safety Plan and posted on our website.

Motion from the Floor: J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to approve a model for resuming Winter Sports and Activities beginning November 30th.

Resume Winter Sports & Activities

- Resumption of Sports is dependent on completion of a facilities plan by the Athletic Director.
- Resumption of Activities require that the Activity Sponsor submits a facility plan for their activity and receives approval from the respective building principal.

- All plans shall require all participants to wear an approved mask at all times
- Sports teams will participate only in dual meets or head to head matches (no multi-team tournaments)
- In all cases the plan must include communication to our facility staff to arrange proper clean up after the activity

Motion from the Floor: J. Brandt; **Second:** P. Stewart; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to approve a framework for decisions to change between Instructional Model Levels.

*Framework to
Chg. between
Instr. Models*

- Decisions will be based on the PDE Instructional model chart including the County requirement for two weeks in a level to initiate a change in model.
- The decision will be based on local and county positivity and incident rate data, deferring to the most concerning level of transmission, as well as specific District issues or concerns.
- The District will communicate the plan for Instructional Model on a weekly basis.

Motion from the Floor: B. Blaser; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to approve Option 1 of the Attestation Ensuring Implementation of Mitigation Efforts from the Dept. of Health and the Dept. of Education as follows: All or some of the students within the public school entity are currently receiving in-person instruction and:

Attestation

1. We have read the Updated Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings, effective November 18, 2020, including necessary exceptions and associated guidance, and affirm the public school entity is complying and will continue to comply with and enforce the Updated Order of the Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Health Requiring Universal Face Coverings, including necessary exceptions and associated guidance.

Mrs. Carlson asked how they would use this document. Dr. Ralston they indicated they would follow up to be sure districts follow this.

Dr. Ralston said there has been guidance for students and staff who travel. If they travel out of state there is an order in effect that they would need to test within 72 hours of returning or quarantine for 14 days. They are not to use a rapid test. Children under 11 years of age do not need to test or quarantine.

One of the other items released today regarding number of orders as part of the Dept. of Health announcements is a stay at home advisory. Starting Friday employees must telework if possible. Our teachers are able to do this. Dr. Ralston recommends allowing our teachers to work from home. Mr. Blaser asked Dr. Ralston to check with Bill Andrews regarding employees working from home and if a school is considered a business.

Dr. Ralston answered a Chat Session question: What does this mean to special education students? He said if special education programs are running in the buildings we would need the teacher in the building.

A chat Session visitor asked if there was a timeline for the stay at home order. Dr. Ralston said that was a question for the Governor.

Mrs. Monti said we can tell our students to wear masks but we cannot control other schools wearing masks. Mr. Brandt said if our section requires masks then schools we play will wear them.

Adjournment

Motion: P. Stewart; **Second:** J. Brandt; **Motion Carried:** Unanimous Voice Vote to adjourn the Work Session/General Purpose Meeting at 10:45 P.M. to an Executive Session to discuss legal, real estate, and personnel matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy S. F. Donovan,
Board Secretary